

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2205

As Passed House:

March 10, 1999

Title: An act relating to the mandatory court appearance following arrest for DUI.

Brief Description: Providing conditions for waiver of the requirement for a mandatory appearance following arrest for DUI.

Sponsors: Representatives McDonald, Lovick, Carrell, Constantine and Haigh.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Judiciary: 3/2/99 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/10/99, 97-0.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows local courts to waive the requirement that persons arrested for DUI appear in court within one judicial day after arrest.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 12 members: Representatives Carrell, Republican Co-Chair; Constantine, Democratic Co-Chair; Hurst, Democratic Vice Chair; Lambert, Republican Vice Chair; Cox; Dickerson; Esser; Kastama; Lantz; Lovick; McDonald and Schindler.

Staff: Bill Perry (786-7123).

Background:

As part of extensive revisions to the state's drunk driving laws, last year the Legislature required that within one judicial day after an arrest for DUI, the defendant must be brought before a judge. The purpose of the appearance is for consideration of the need for imposing conditions on pretrial release. Concern had been expressed

that the failure to have a prompt appearance was resulting in problem drivers being released without restrictions on their driving pending trial.

Since the enactment of this prompt appearance requirement, however, some local jurisdictions have expressed concern that it is difficult to comply with.

Summary of Bill:

A local court may waive the requirement that a DUI defendant appear before a judge within one judicial day of arrest. The local waiver must provide for appearance of the defendant at the earliest practicable day as defined by local court rule.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: The bill will help out smaller courts by giving them an option. Some of these courts hold sessions very infrequently. There is no opposition to the bill.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Representative McDonald, prime sponsor; and Melanie Stewart, District and Municipal Court Judges Association.